(b) if so, the reasons for such a change;

(c) whether there is any proposal before Government for expanding the list of notified classes of industry to which social security can be extended; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) Some changes in the Employees Provident Fund & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 are contemplated, so as to widen the scope and streamline the implementation of the provisions of the Act.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Training of Officers at Asian Institute of Management Manila

1938. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) how many officers are being sent for training to the Asian Institute of Management, Manila in 2001-2002;

(b) the expenditure likely to be incurred on their training this year; and

(c) the reasons for incurring so much expenditure to train these officers abroad, when there are better training institutions in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) 10 officers have been deputed to attend the training at the Asian Institute of Management, Manila in the year 2001-2002.

(b) The total expenditure likely to be incurred on their training is approximately Rs. 106.69 lakhs. An amount of Rs. 73.58 lakhs has already been spent and another Rs. 33.11 lakhs towards allowances will be released in instalments.

(c) A large number of training programmes are being successfully

implemented in the country which enhance the capacity/skills of the officers. In view of rapid changes in management systems and technology all over the world it is important to expose officers to the best management practices. The benefits of learning from the experience of the fellow-participants from other countries in problem solving are some of the hallmarks of training abroad. Exposure to training abroad enables our civil servants to frame better policies/ plans and implement projects and thereby ensure better delivery of services to the public.

Lower pay scale to assistants

1939. MISS FRIDA TOPNO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that graduate level Assistants' Grade Examination held at three levels by way of preliminary, Main followed by interview is very tough mode of recruitment;

(b) whether all the other Group 'B' non-Gazetted and Group 'C' category of employees drawing the pay scale of Rs. 6500-10500 or even higher are recruited through such high level of selection process; and

(c) if not, the reasons for giving lower pay scale of Rs. 5500-9000 to the Assistants Group 'B' non-Gazetted, working at the apex Government offices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) There is no separate examination for recruitment of Assistants only, SSC holds a Combined Graduate Level Examination for filling up the posts of Assistants, Inspectors of Central Excise/Income tax, Preventive Officer, Assistant Enforcement Officer and Examiner (OG) in Customs House, Sub Inspectors in CBI, Sub Inspectors of Police in CPOs, Sub Inspectors in Delhi Police and Divisional Accountants/ Auditors/Junior Accountants/UDCs in various Central Government Departments. The examination is a 3-tier system in which candidates are first short listed by way of a Preliminary (Objective type) Exam.